

To the Committee Members of S.B. 374,

I respectfully submit my opposition to this bill.

All were sorely effected by the Newtown tragedy, and I understand your desire to prevent this heinous crime from occurring again, but S.B. 374 is not the way to do so.

The committee's intentions are from a good place. Yet I must question how a standard of "normal" could ever be established. As a former marketing research professional, I am certain that these proposed evaluations will reveal subjective discrepancies in almost all cases.

Who would pay for this? As the cost of living, gasoline prices, etc. continue to skyrocket at percentages greater than salaries are (if one is fortunate to have a job), I would never pay to go to a doctor I didn't need. The government cannot be expected to pay for these expenses.

Consider that all children inevitably visit their pediatrician or need to go to an emergency room. A more effective and less costly solution, in my opinion, would be to implement new training and education strategies for medical professionals: how to identify troubled children and how to approach parents, for example. Most importantly and for all situations regardless of where it is identified and by who (parent, relative, teacher, or doctor): have care solutions in place and available immediately for those in need.

Thank you for your time.

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